

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 4 after the heading SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION, which was added by way of a Preliminary Amendment, filed November 8, 2001, with the following paragraph.

--It is ~~thus the problem~~ an object of this invention to provide a method for detecting TSE-induced pathologic changes in tissues. Said changes may be caused by scrapie, BSE, or any other of the TSE diseases. ~~This problem~~ This objective is ~~solved according to achieved by~~ the present invention ~~by~~ in the following steps: (a) directing infrared radiation ~~to~~ onto a tissue sample ~~and with pathologic changes caused by TSE,~~ recording its ~~the~~ spectral characteristics after ~~irradiation and~~ interaction with the sample; (b) comparing ~~and classifying~~ the infrared ~~spectra~~ spectrum thus obtained ~~with~~ against a reference database containing infrared spectra of TSE-infected tissues and non-infected tissues; and (c) classifying the infrared spectrum as a spectrum obtained from TSE-infected or non-infected tissues.--